

DEF LOC # 254

182 copies
Reeled
Translated by
Defense Language Branch

Strictly confidential No. 441

Tientsin, September 14, 1926

To: Foreign Minister Baron SHIDEHARA, Kijuro
From: Consul General ARITA Hachiro in Tientsin
Subject: Report on details of conversation with KANG, Yu-Wei

On September 7 Kang Yu-Wei visited me and thanked me for Japan's goodwill concerning the Emperor Hsuantung, and asked my view on the current situation. Taking this opportunity I thought it proper to get confirmation of his true views on the question of the restoration of the Emperor and to exchange views relating thereto. I, therefore, invited him to my official residence on September 10, and talked with him about two hours before and after the dinner. Below is a gist of Kang's story.

"The present condition of China is one of utter confusion. No peaceful day has passed since the establishment of the Chinese Republic. In Canton, for instance, more than two hundred and fifty evil taxes have been imposed on the people, and taxes have been collected more than fifteen years in advance. Such being the case, the people are cursing the government. The same situation prevails not only in Canton, but also in any part of China. Once you step into the interior, you will find that almost all the people are longing for the Ching dynasty. Though China has become a republic, we do not recognize it. The people

DMF LOC # 254

were opposed to the imperial rule of Yuan Shih-Kai, not to the imperial rule itself but because of Yuan being the emperor. Endless disturbances have been occurring in China since the revolution, because the people fight each other to become the ruler by elections by which any person may become the ruler. As the emperor system is suitable to China, peace will be brought about by the restoration of this system. The people may say that the republican form dominates the world, but this is by no means true. This question must be decided by the circumstances in which each country finds itself. When the British Minister MacClay and the Portuguese and Netherlands ministers visited me in Shanghai, they told me that it is natural for China to come back to imperial rule. The Portuguese minister said that his country has been in ceaseless troubles since it changed from a monarchical to a republican government. As to the attitude of the warlords in China, Sun Chuan-Fang alone has not clarified his stand. Such persons as Shang Tso-Lin, Wu Pei-Fu and Chang Tsung-Chang are supporting the reinstatement of monarchy. Chang Tso-Lin donated 100,000 dollars and Wu Pei-Fu 20,000 dollars to the Emperor Hsuantung. When they are received by the Emperor, they bow ceremoniously. They receive the Emperor's photograph secretly and worship it. What they mean is clear without questioning. Needless to say, extreme care must be taken as to the time of restoration, no matter how it may be desirable. Care must also be taken as far as.

possible not to be utilized by one or two warlords. I shall never be played by warlords, as I am confident of my ability to read the militarists' minds. As to the time, we must wait until peace reigns in the south. As the hostile feeling toward Chiang Kai-Shek is unusually strong even in Canton, he will not be able to stand up again if he once loses in fighting in the Wuhan area. When such time arrives there is no doubt that the northern warlords will naturally become united in support of the Emperor Hsuantung. This will be the time for imperial restoration. It was the Japanese Legation into which the Emperor fled, and it is the Japanese concession in Tientsin where he receives protection now. What does this fact suggest? We must say that it is based upon intimacy among the Oriental people. No explanation will be required what will be the Sino-Japanese relations if the Emperor Hsuantung who is under Japanese protection is restored in future. Whenever I think of this I feel great pleasure. I wish you will convey my views to the Foreign Minister, minister in Peking and other Japanese holding important positions."

The foregoing story was told as refutation to my private view (the same view as I mentioned to Cheng Hsiac-Hsu as reported by confidential letter No. 255 dated June 3). Kang Yu-Wei purposely avoided commenting on what I have stressed: "From the standpoint of the future happiness of the Emperor Hsuantung, a monarchist movement is extremely dangerous. Even if it is successful temporarily, who can guarantee its

possible not to be utilized by one or two warlords. I shall never be played by warlords, as I am confident of my ability to read the militarists' minds. As to the time, we must wait until peace reigns in the south. As the hostile feeling toward Chiang Kai-Shek is unusually strong even in Canton, he will not be able to stand up again if he once loses in fighting in the Wuhan area. When such time arrives there is no doubt that the northern warlords will naturally become united in support of the Emperor Hsuantung. This will be the time for imperial restoration. It was the Japanese Legation into which the Emperor fled, and it is the Japanese concession in Tientsin where he receives protection now. What does this fact suggest? We must say that it is based upon intimacy among the Oriental people. No explanation will be required what will be the Sino-Japanese relations if the Emperor Hsuantung who is under Japanese protection is restored in future. Whenever I think of this I feel great pleasure. I wish you will convey my views to the Foreign Minister, minister in Peking and other Japanese holding important positions."

The foregoing story was told as refutation to my private view (the same view as I mentioned to Cheng Hsiac-Hsu as reported by confidential letter No. 255 dated June 3). Kang Yu-Wei purposely avoided commenting on what I have stressed: "From the standpoint of the future happiness of the Emperor Hsuantung, a monarchist movement is extremely dangerous. Even if it is successful temporarily, who can guarantee its

DEF LOC # 254

durability? The old royalists of the Ching dynasty should make effort for the permanent peace and happiness of the Emperor". He simply stated that China must adopt a monarchical government and that, in his view, such a time will come in the near future.

Enclosed herewith for your reference a translation of the editorial of Ta Kun Pao of this city (owned by Hu Lin of National Press Agency) of 11th (Enclosure No. 1), and Chinese Times (owned by the group of Li Yuan-Hung) (Enclosure No. 2).

Copy sent to: Japanese Minister in China and Consul
General in Shanghai

C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, HAYASHI, Kaoru, Chief of the Archives Section,
Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document
hereto attached in Japanese consisting of 2 pages and
entitled "REPORT OF THE INTERVIEW WITH KENG YU-WEI"
is an exact and true copy of an official document of the
Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,
on this 27th day of December 1946.

K. HAYASHI
Signature of Official

Witness: T. SATO

TRANSLATION CERTIFICATE

I, William E. Clarke, of the Defense Language
Branch, hereby certify that the foregoing translation
described in the above certificate is, to the best of my
knowledge and belief, a correct translation and is as near
as possible to the meaning of the original document.

/s/ William E. Clarke

Tokyo, Japan

Date 27 Jan. 1947

外務省記録 宣統帝復辟及皇族ノ勳爵親族等

門 A 類 6 項 1 日 1 號 6

亞細亞(白書)第一編甲(略字)

卷第四四一號 譯込名 宣統帝

大正十五年九月十四日

在天津總領事有 田 八 郎 印

外務大臣男爵 幣原 喜重郎 殿

貴有爲トノ會談ニ領報告ノ件

貴有爲ハ九月七日本官ヲ來訪シ宣統皇帝ニ對スル日本側ノ厚意ヲ謝シ時
局ニ對スル本官ノ意見ヲ求メタルニ付此ノ機會ニ復辟ニ對スル同氏ノ真
意ヲ確ムルト同時ニ意見ノ交換ヲ爲シ適クコト適當ナリト信ジ九月十日
改メテ官邸ニ招待シ食事ノ前後二時間余ニ亘リ會談シタリ
貴氏談話要領左ノ如シ

「支那ノ現狀ハ混亂ニ混亂ヲ重メ民衆以來日漸ク東ノ如キハ二百